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1980

## Letters (1980): Correspondence 71

Claiborne Pell

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March 4, 1980

Honorable Joseph D. Duffey  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Preservation Society of Newport County in Rhode Island has recently submitted an application to the Museums and Historical Organizations Program at the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Society is requesting a total of \$11,870 in NEH planning grant funds while it raised \$7,319 from other sources.

The planning grant will assist the Society in developing a strong interpretive program for the large public audience which visits the Society's major historic properties each year. These architectural treasures, rich in late nineteenth century cultural history, were visited by nearly 729,000 persons last year. This makes the Society's houses the fifth most visited privately-administered historic properties in the United States.

A distinguished group of scholars from the fields of architectural and cultural history as well as the decorative arts will assist the Society's staff in recommending fresh approaches to the interpretation of the Society's varied and unique resources. The Endowment's support will result in a richer and more meaningful experience for the visiting public.

I wish to express my strong personal support for this relatively modest planning grant request from the Preservation Society and hope that, after careful consideration, the Endowment will act favorably on it.

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell

AC:CF  
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